What Next Generation 911 means

Next Generation 911 is a system that uses more forms of modern telecommunications technology. This includes GPS locations, internet protocol, text messaging, even picture and video messaging. The idea is that text messaging and picture messaging are more natural and, in some situations, an easier way to contact emergency services than making a phone call.

The sharing of timely and relevant videos and photos would provide first responders with on-the-ground information to help assess and address emergencies in real-time. For example, these technologies could help report crimes as they are happening thus giving law enforcement officials an increased advantage when responding.

The five steps of the NG911 plan

After several months of planning, the FCC released its five-step plan for implementing the NG911 system. The five steps are:

Location Accuracy: The FCC is investigating ways to utilize a mobile phone's GPS system as a way to locate individuals requesting assistance.

Utilizing messaging: The FCC would like the NG911 system to be able to receive text, video, and photo messages from cell phones.

Technical Standards: The FCC will be creating standards for messaging and cell phones to allow the 911 system and phones to work together seamlessly, even if a phone has been shut off by the service provider.

Building a governing team: The FCC would like to build a team of federal agencies, state 911 authorities and the FCC in order to govern the new NG911 system.

Funding: The 911 system needs funding, and the FCC needs to develop a system to fund the upgrade to NG911.

Laughing Gas Enterprises Patent:

Cross-carrier short code content upload, social network and promotional platform. US Patent 7,697,945

Public Safety usage example -

Police / Law Enforcement / Homeland Security: allows citizens and good Samaritans with a camera capable feature or smart phone the ability to quickly and easily submit relevant picture & video content from their devices to authorities / first responders.

Sending Options

Considerations for Each Method

"CLICK"

Submit via application

Requires pre-planning (load/configure app)
Not universally available (prepaid, basic/non-smart phones)
Requires IP connectivity & data plan subscription

Send to email address

Not intuitive – "email to 911@police.gov"
Not available from all phones (prepaid, basic/non-smart phones)
Requires configured email client on phone
Requires IP connectivity & data plan

Text to short code "911"

Easy to remember "text photo/video to '911'"
Available from all phones/carriers
All phones are MMS capable
Enables SMS or voice dialog with sender for add'l information

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